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VOL. I.

WASHINGTON, D. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1861.

No. 108.

PRICE ONE CENT.

THE LATE DUCHESS OF RENT—THE ROYAL FAMILY OF ENGLAND.

The death of the Duchess of Kent, mother of Queen Victoria, will place the courts of England, Belgium, Prussia, Saxe Cobourg, and numerous others, in mourning. The death of this lady-recalls to memory some of the leading facts in the history of the royal family of England.

Old King George the Third had fifteen sons and daughters, and yet in 1818, after the death of the Princess Charlotte, there were fears that there would be no lineal descendants of his to wear the crown. Only three of his sons were then married. The Prince Regent had lost his

only child, and was separated from his wife.
The Duke of York was separated from his Duchess, the Duke of Cumberland was divorced and widowed, and the marriage of the Duke of Sussex, being without the royal assent, availed nothing for the succession. So there was
haste made to marry the other surviving royal
children, none of whom were young. It was
even thought desirable to get a husband for the
Princess Elizabeth, who was forty-eight years
old, and she was married to the Prince of Hesse-Homburg. The Duke of Clarence (late William IV) married the Princess Adelaide, of Saxe-Meiningen, who bore him no children. The Duke of Cambridge married the Princess Augusta, of Hesse, who is still living, and has three children. The Duke of Kent, who was older than the Duke o Cambridge, married the lady whose death is just announced. None of the royal marriages thus arranged

None of the royal marriages thus arranged pleased the English people, except that of the Duke of Keat. The lady selected for him was the daughter of the Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, widow of the Prince of Leiningen, and sister of Prince Leopold, the husband of the lamented Princess Charlotte, now King of the Belgians. But the married life of the new Duchess was but short; for in less than two years the Duke of Kent died, and she was again a widow with one child—the Princess (now Queen) Victoria. At that time, the accession of this little child to the British throne seemed but a remote contingency. George III outlived his son, the Prince of Wales, while George IV and William IV, his other sons, who reigned after him, both died without issue. Thus, the issue of the next brother, the deceased Duke of Kent, became heir to the British throne. As soon as this contingency gradually resolved it-self into a probability, and then a certainty, the Duchess of Kent devoted her time to fitting her daughter for the high station she was called upon to occupy. Mental and personal accomplishments were carefully attended to, as well as physical requirements. The daughter throve under such judicious treatment, and the mother had the astification of attending the constant. had the satisfaction of attending the coronation and the marriage of her child, of seeing her the mother of a large family, and of knowing that her throne was built upon the hearts of her

subjects.

It may be added that this is the first serious
Victoria has ever expebereavement Qceen Victoria has ever experienced. Her father died before she was old enough to know him, and she has never lost a child. Arronly child herself, she had never a brother or sister to lose or mourn for, and thus the present bereavement must be peculiarly afflicting to her.

On the accession of Queen Victoria to the throne, the Duchess of Kent voluntarily as-sumed the demeanor of a subject of her own daughter. She made it a rule never to enter daughter. She made it a rule never to enter the royal presence without a summons, so that, at every meal, it became necessary to send a special messenger to command her attendance at table; and she never would talk on affairs of Stare. Some may think this pretty stiff for a mother, and so it was, yet there was ever the warmest attachment between her and her child. When in London, the Queen scarcely passed a day without going to visit her; and the Duch-ess was as frequently at the palace. The latter was a great reader, and averse to everything in the shape of ostentation. She was of a chari-table disposition, but her means were limited, for she strove to pay off her husband's debts. Her Majesty, however, soon after her accession, discharged that pious office, and notified it to the Duchess, who had been previously ignorant of her intention, by placing a packet of receipts on her plate one morning at breakfast. These proved to be receipts for all the debts of the Duke.

AWFUL MASSACRE OF THE CREW OF THE AMERICAN WHALING SHIP SUPERIOR.

From the Sidney Her.ild, January 21. The following letter, addressed to the cdi-tor of the *Herald*, by Capt. Hugh Mair, of the schooner Ariel, has been handed to us by Capt.

schooner Ariet, has been handed to us by Capt.
Devlin, of the Rebecca, now lying at this port:
I beg to inform you that I anchored at Rubiana (Solomon Islands) on the 10th of November, and on the following day the schooner
Ariel, Slater master, arrived at the same place, having touched at Treasury Island, three days
regionals. The mate of the Ariel told me that seviously. The mate of the Ariel told me that had reason to believe that the American whaling ship Superior, of New Bedford, Woods master, had been taken at the last-named place. I thereupon immediately got under way, and proceeded to Treasury Island, where way, and proceeded to Ireasury Island, where the natives, as usual, came on board in con-siderable numbers, and during the whole day were coming and going, but did not offer any-thing for sale. This gave rise to increased susthing for sale. This gave rise to increased sus-picion, and, finding but too much grounds for my misgivings, I called one of the chiefs into the cabis, and told him that I knew of their having taken the ship and mordered the crew, and that it was no use for him to deny the fact. The man then confessed that it was the case, but said that he had had no hand in it, which

I afterwards found out to be partly true.
The next day the natives brought part of the ship's sails, (all cut up,) and several more arti-cles which they wanted to sell; amongst the rest was the ship's log-book. That day I found rest was the saip's log-book. That day I found out that six of her crew were prisoners upon the island, and I at once set about trying to get possession of them. For three days more I cruised off the island, having the natives backwards and forwards during that time. I went to the beach occasionally, and could see the men, but on every occasion they were strongly guarded. None of the principal natives coming on board, as a last resource I had to secure a native who was related to one of the head chiefs. I put him in fro s, and next morning I took him ashore, and again offered the natives to pay them for the men. They

agreed at last to let me have one, who, on coming to my bont, gave me the dreadful in-telligence that the whole of the crew of the superior, with the exception of himself and five others, had been murdered, and the ship hurat. It seems there are two chiefs implicated—Copan, the head man, and America, the next. My prisoner being a relative to America, I resolved to keep him until I got the two other men that chief had, for each of the two chiefs had it seems that of the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of the care of the two chiefs had it seems that the care of chiefs had, it seems, three men,) and I was finally successful after a great deal of trouble. The three men, however, whom Copan had possession of, I could not get either by persuasion or by threats. At night I proceeded to the auchorage, where the ship had been taken, and remained there two days. I saw no natives, but I found the ship's jibboom on the beach, together with pieces of burnt timber,

The barque Superior, B. D. Woods, master, (Woods, owner,) of New Bedford, sailed from that port on the 24th June, 1857, made Treasury Island on the 12th of September, 1869, and came to anchor there on the same day. On the 13th, 14th, and 15th of that month, the crew were employed in wooding and watering, and, from the men's statement, were visited by a great number of natives armed. On Sunday, the 16th, nine of the crew went ashore. The carpenter and two men went to the settlement carpenter and two men went to the settlement, and were murdered in one of the native huts. The natives then proceeded in canoes and overland to the ship, and those who came by land fell in with the remaining six close to the beach, and murdered them. About one hundred and fifty natives got on board the vessel, and made a rush for the crew, who were all on deck, ex-cept four, who were in bed. Those on deck were immediately tomahawked, only two escaping by jumping down the main hatchway : and joining the four below in the forecastle one of the crew, whom I recovered, saw the captain and second mate murdered by a native called "Billy," who has been to Sidney, and speaks English well. The chief Copan was the principal in this dreadful massacre. The six men below, being armed with lances, kept the natives from coming down the force kept the natives from coming down the fore-castle, until at last "Billy" told my informant, that if they came up they should not be burt. At length, therefore, they did so, and were at once surrounded, and by the chief Copan or-dered to be put to death. The chief America offered to buy three of the men, and he persuaded Copan to keep the other three to till the ground. These three, as I have already inti-mated, I could not recover.

The three men on board my vessel say they were well treated by the chief America, and they tell me that the native "Billy" was at the taking of the schooner Pearl, where I am now anchor, about eighteen months before this happened. It is said that he went over to Treasu y Island in the Superior, and had an opportuthere being that there were no arms kept; there being only seven old flint guns, and none of them loaded, when the ship was taken. Twenty-six men were butchered in cold blood, amongst whom was a poor lad ten years of age, the crew consisting of thirty two souls when she anchored. The natives took five boats with a quantity of cordage and sails, which were all cut up, and everything else was destroyed by setting the ship on fire. The Superior had on board 150 barrels of sperm and 150 barrels of right whale oil. In November last she was in Honolulu, and shipped in the Midas, for the United States, 2,683 lbs. of bone, 370 barrels of sperm, and 230 barrels of whale oils, as shown by her log in my possession.

HUGH MAIR. Rubiana, Solomon Island, Nov. 30.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC.

Pike's Opera House, recently under the management of the St. Louis Opera Company,

management of the St. Louis of the Colsed on the 11th inst.

The Colsen Opera Troups will commence a short season at Pike's Opera House, Cincinnati, on the 18th.

The Fabbri Troupe gave an entertainment at
Smith and Nixon's Hall, Cincinnati, on the 18th

The Campbell Minstrels performed in St. Louis last week.

Gen. Tom Thumb gave an entertainment at Waverley, New York, on the 28th ult. Lloyd's Minstrels performed in Cleveland last

Verdi, the composer of the "Ballo in Maschera" and several other operas, has been elected a member of the new Italian Parlia-

Mrs. Macready, dramatic impersonator and reader, gave an entertainment at Ely Hall, Elmira, N. Y., on the 22d ult. Mr. and Mrs. Waller commenced an engage

nent at the St. Charles theatre, New Orleans, on the 13th ult. Verdi's "Trovatore" was reproduced at the

Verdi's "Trovatore" was reproduced at the Opera House, New Orleans, on the 18th ult., Mile. Patti taking the principal part. Thiodon's Museum of Arts commenced its exhibitions at Merrill Hall, Detroit, on the 18th

George Christy's Minstrels are at the St. Louis Theatre.
Sam Sharpley's Minstrels performed at Prov

idence, R. I., on the 28th and 29th ult.
Unsworth's Minstrels were at Metropolitan Hall, Chicago last week.

Hooley & Campbell's Minstrels opened Bryan Hall, Chicago, on the 20th ult. The Holman Parlor Opera Troupe gave tertainments in Richmond, Ind., last week. The performance of "Moses in Egypt, Campbell's Minstrels opened a the Academy of Music, Boston, is said to have

been very successful. At the Boston Museum, the success attendant on former representations of "The En-chantress," with Mr. and Miss Richings in the principal characters, has warranted the continuance of the piece until further notice.

The Florences closed their engagement s

the Howard Athenaum, Boston, last night. The Vienna journals announce that Mile. Grossman, a celebrated actress, is to be married to Baron de Prokesch-Osten, brother t the Austrian Minister at Constantinople.

A correspondent from Germany announces that Herr Ernst, the state of whose health precludes any hope of his being able to resume his profession, is putting the last touches to a string quartette, which will be forthwith pub-lished at Leipsic.

Dr. Liszt is in Paris, whence it may be inferred that "Taunhauser" is shortly forth-M. Meybeer has been composing incidental songs for a new play by Mme. Birch Pfeiffer,

" Der Goldbauer," which has been proluced at Berlin.

Mr. Buckland, manager of the Montres

Mr. Buckland, manager of the Montreal Theatre, has engaged the French company, and will reopen the Montreal Theatre with them in April, or early in May.

The Webb Sisters, Emma and Ada, com-menced a re-engagement at the Detroit Theatre, on the 18th ult., the entertainment consisting of "Nicholas Nickleby," and "The Invisible Prince."

Prince."
Adah Isaacs Menken concluded the second

week of her engagement at the Academy of Music, Milwaukre, on the 23d inst. Miss Susan Denin commenced an engagement at the Pittsburgh Theatre last Monday, appearing in "Joseph and his Brethren," which the manager has had in preparation for some

time past.

Jim Myers, the popular clown, is manager of a Bijou Circus in England. At last accounts, he was playing at Birmingham.

Wilson and Morris's Minstrels gave an enter-

tainment in Biddeford, Maine, on the 21st inst., and from there went to Portland. Among the arrivals at New Orleans, from Ha-zana, on the 12th inst., were Mme. Frezzolini

and A. Biscaccianti. Mr. James Carroll, of the Bryant's Minstrels, New York, is lying at the point of death.

J. B. Booth (a brother to Edwin) and a good

company were playing at the San Francisco Opera House.
The San Francisco papers announce the mar riage of Mr. H. A. Perry to Miss Agnes Laud. Mr. John Wood has joined the Forrest Thea-

tre Melodeon, San Francisco. Mr. Walter Bray and a select company have started for San Jose, California.

A young American singer, Miss Emma Nicholas, is appearing with great success in London, at the exhibition of a corps of New England Missrels.

Mr. Woodin, a London actor, in the course of a two-hours' performance, successfully rep-resents a hundred different characters.

Mr. George Clair has leased the Princess
Theatre, Liverpool, and was to open on Easter
Monday, with a melo dramatic company.
Morton Price and Miss Catherine Lucette

were playing at Birmingham, England, at the "Gallery Illustration."

Mr. Neafie had returned to London, and was arranging engagements for the spring and sum-

mer.
Gottschalk is about returning to the United States.
The Martinetti Troupe was at Nevada, Cali-

fornia.

Mr. Sothern commences an engagement at the Boston Museum, May 6th.
Mr. John Wilkes Booth was starring at Port-

land, Maine, last week.
Mr. Murdoch opened at McVicker's Theatre,
Chicago, last Monday week.
Susan Denin and her husband (Huntingdon)

have been seeking notoriety at Detroit, by beat-ing the critic of one of the newspapers in that city. Having enacted these manly and ladylike parts to their own satisfaction, they "va-moosed the ranch," and started for Canada. "Central Park" was not successful in Bos-

ton with Mr. and Mrs. Florence.

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